



Emma McClarkin

MEP for the East Midlands



Your European Parliamentary report from Emma McClarkin MEP

Spring 2012

Dear Colleague,

The last few months have been very hectic both in the European Parliament and in the East Midlands.

In the East Mids I am trying to do my bit to promote local sports clubs in advance of the Olympics, and I have also been campaigning in the region.

I have also recently produced a guide to European funding opportunities that are available, in response to many queries from constituents.

In the European Parliament I have likewise been very busy with various reports and committees.

Finally I was very disappointed at Roger's decision to leave the party. However, I will keep working hard for the people of the East Midlands who elected me as a Conservative MEP.

Emma McClarkin

HIGHLIGHTING OLYMPIC SPORTS

With the Olympics coming up later this year, I'm raising awareness of the opportunities people in the East Midlands have to take part in various Olympic sports for themselves.

Most Olympic sports have amateur clubs and facilities across the East Midlands, which are very happy to welcome new people willing to try them. So I would urge everyone to find

their nearest sports club or facilities, and have a go at any sports they enjoy. Who knows we might find some future Olympic talent here in the East Midlands.

One of the criticisms of the Olympic Games is that with a few exceptions, most of the events are taking place in London.



However, the focus on the Olympics will hugely increase the profile of Olympic sports, which clubs across the East Midlands can take advantage of to increase their profile and attract new members.



I want to help them do this, and so in advance of the Games this year

I am trying out various Olympic sports for myself, which will hopefully help to raise the profile of clubs in the East Midlands, and encourage people to try new sports. I have also added a list of East Midlands sports clubs to my website, www.emmamclarkin.com

TRAMPOLINING IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

I recently visited the Northamptonshire Trampoline Gymnastics Academy (NTGA) to try out the Olympic sport of Trampolining.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and the chance to try trampolining again. Learning to do somersaults and acrobatics requires a lot of hard work, but it's also amazing fun, and very good exercise as well, for all ages.

It's great that the people of Northamptonshire have this fantastic facility available to them, and I would urge them to take advantage of it and have a go for themselves. Visit www.ntga.co.uk

VISITING THE DLR AIR AMBULANCE

Recently I visited the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance at their training base at East Midlands Airport.

The crew showed me around one of the air ambulances, and talked to me about their lifesaving work.

During the visit I was struck by their pride in their work, and professionalism in carrying it out.

I've also sponsored one of the DLRAA's fundraising events in Derbyshire, an evening with Anton du Beke, which raised over £6000.

Please support them and visit their website at www.dlraa.co.uk



Out & About

With EMMA McCLARKIN MEP



Meeting the NFU at Woodborough Park Farm in Nottinghamshire



Visiting Glossop Rugby Club in Derbyshire



With pupils at Leicester Girls High School



I've been campaigning across the region this April—pictured here with Malcolm Barham in Lincoln

SCHMALLENBERG VIRUS CONCERNS

I have recently called on the EU to ensure scientists respond vigorously and urgently to the threat of the new livestock virus Schmallenberg.

Schmallenberg virus emerged this year and causes alarming birth defects in cattle and sheep. There have now been more than 2,000 cases in Europe, including several hundred in England.

Little is so far known about the virus and there is no cure or preventive vaccine at present. It is not a notifiable disease but I would strongly urge farmers to report cases so that the right precautions can

be taken and more can be learnt about the disease.

I am also encouraging the European Commission to make sure scientists tackle vigorously the question of whether an early cure can be found for this disease and whether vaccination could be effective.

Its progress across Europe has so far been gradual, but worrying. However, it is believed to be carried by midges and mosquitoes - so the coming spring and summer months could be vital to its containment or otherwise.

FREE FUNDING GUIDE PUBLISHED

I've recently launched a free guide to European funding opportunities, in an effort to help groups and organisations across the East Midlands gain access to EU funds.

I've written and produced the free 36-page booklet, titled 'A Brief Guide to European Funding Opportunities in the East Midlands', in response to one of the most common questions I get asked, how to access European funding.



available and what they are for, as well as which types of funding different applicants could consider looking at.

Whilst I don't agree with how the EU works and spends taxpayers' money, if there is funding that can be brought back to the East Midlands I would urge people to apply for it, as I am committed to making sure we get our fair share.

The booklet includes some background to EU funding, details of some success stories in the East Midlands, information on the types of funding

For a free copy of my funding booklet, please call my office on 01858 419709. You can also download it from my website, www.emmamclarkin.com.

PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

My campaigning for protection of children online continues in the European Parliament.

Minors are increasingly using internet and media, and with modern mobile devices it is also possible to access the internet on a more and more frequent basis. 41% of 12-15 year olds have a smartphone and around half of them use it for social networking on a weekly basis, meaning that online services have become a part of children's everyday lives.

adults in recent years, and whilst many of these interactions are positive, there are also problematic situations including grooming and cyber bullying.

Parents, teachers and others working with children have an important role in raising awareness about problems, but I believe it is important that we raise awareness of tools available to us in our Member States across the EU and exchange best practice in increasing online child protection.

We need to ensure a safe media environment for children. Social networking sites have gained a huge importance among children and young

We want children to receive the benefits from the opportunities in the digital world in a safe environment, and I will continue to work towards this.

